

Please amend claims 23-34, 68 and 115:

23. (Twice amended) An ink cartridge for mounting on a carriage of an ink jet printing apparatus and for supplying ink to a printhead of said ink jet printing apparatus through an ink supply needle, the ink cartridge comprising:

a plurality of external walls, including a first wall and a second

wall, defining at least some of a chamber;

an ink supply port for receiving said ink supply needle, the ink

supply port having a centerline and communicating with

the chamber;

a semiconductor storage device storing information about the ink

carried by said cartridge; and

a plurality of contacts for connecting the semiconductor storage

device to the ink jet printing apparatus, the contacts being

formed in a plurality of rows lying essentially in a plane

parallel to the centerline of the ink supply port, each said

row being centered relative to the centerline of said ink

supply port.

24. (Twice amended) The ink cartridge according to claim 23, wherein said semiconductor storage device is disposed on said second wall of said housing.

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25. (Twice amended) The ink cartridge according to claim 23, wherein said semiconductor storage device is disposed on said second wall of said housing in the vicinity of said ink supply port.

26. (Twice amended) The ink cartridge according to claim 23, wherein said semiconductor storage device is disposed on said second wall which is perpendicular to said first wall of said housing.

27. (Twice amended) The ink cartridge according to claim 23, wherein said contacts connecting said semiconductor storage device are disposed on a substrate which is substantially rectangular, and said semiconductor storage device is disposed on said second wall which is substantially perpendicular to said first wall, and said second wall has a shorter width than the other wall of said housing.

28. (Twice amended) The ink cartridge according to claim 23, wherein said contacts connecting said semiconductor storage device are disposed substantially in parallel with said second wall which is perpendicular to said first wall of said housing.

29. (Twice amended) The ink cartridge according to claim 23, wherein said contacts connecting said semiconductor storage device are located at an opposite position of a fulcrum of the ink cartridge when it is mounted on or removed from the printing apparatus.

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30. (Twice amended) The ink cartridge according to claim 23, wherein said contacts connecting said semiconductor storage device are disposed on a substrate which is substantially rectangular and directs in a vertical orientation.

31. (Twice amended) An ink cartridge for mounting on a carriage of an ink jet printing apparatus and for supplying ink to a printhead of said ink jet printing apparatus through an ink supply needle, the ink cartridge comprising:

a plurality of external walls defining at least some of a chamber;

an ink supply port for receiving said ink supply needle, the ink

supply port having a centerline and communicating with
the chamber;

a semiconductor storage device storing information about the ink
carried by said cartridge; and

a plurality of contacts for connecting said semiconductor storage
device to the ink jet printing apparatus, the contacts being
formed in a plurality of rows so that one of said rows is
closer to said ink supply port than an other of said rows, the
row of said contacts which is closest to said ink supply port
being longer than the row of said contacts which is furthest
from said ink supply port.

32. (Twice amended) The ink cartridge according to claim 31, wherein said contacts, viewing the ink cartridge in a direction perpendicular to a plane of the contacts, lie on a centerline of said ink supply port.

33. (Twice amended) The ink cartridge according to claim 31, wherein said wall on which said semiconductor storage device is disposed is located in the vicinity of said ink supply port.

34. (Twice amended) The ink cartridge according to claim 33, wherein said semiconductor storage device is located on a center line of said wall of said housing on which said semiconductor storage device is disposed.

68. (Twice amended) The ink cartridge according to claim 66, wherein said semiconductor storage device is intersected by a plane passing through a center line of said ink supply port.

115. (Amended) The ink cartridge according to claim 23, wherein, viewing the ink cartridge in a direction perpendicular to a plane of the contacts, the electrical contacts of each row are symmetrically disposed about the centerline of the ink supply port.

REMARKS

Claims 1-124 were pending in this application, claims 66-76 and 84-94 having been allowed, and claims 1-65, 77-83 and 95-124 having been rejected. Rejected claims 1-22, 35-65, 77-83, 95-114 and 120-124 have been cancelled and claims 23-34, 68 and 115 have been amended. The specification has been carefully revised to reflect the claimed priority of this application, and to attend to several minor typographical and grammatical informalities (a reference to Fig. "5(a)" has been changed to --6(a)-- and the word "show" has been changed to --shown--. Claims 23 and 31 are independent.

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